

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Taihaku, and claims 43-46, 48, 50 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kasuga in view of Taihaku. Claims 41-42 were allowed. Claims 37-40, 47, 49 and 52-58 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants and applicants' attorney acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 41-42 and the indication of allowability concerning claims 37-40, 47, 49 and 52-58.

Applicants have elected to accept the allowed and allowable subject matter. In accordance with this amendment, allowable dependent claims 37, 39, 47, 49, 52 and 54 have been rewritten in independent form, and all of the rejected claims have been canceled.

A summary of the status of the claims follows:

Claims 1-36 have been canceled.

Allowable dependent claim 37 has been rewritten to independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 36, thereby placing claim 37 in

allowable form. Claim 38 depends on claim 37 and is therefore likewise allowable.

Allowable dependent claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 36, thereby placing claim 39 in allowable form. Claim 40 depends on claim 39 and is thus likewise allowable.

Claims 41-42 stand allowed.

Claims 43-46 have been canceled.

Allowable dependent claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 44, thereby placing claim 47 in allowable form.

Claim 48 has been canceled.

Allowable claim 49 has been rewritten to independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 44 and intervening claim 48, thereby placing claim 49 in allowable form.

Claims 50-51 have been canceled.

Allowable dependent claim 52 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 44, thereby placing claim 52 in allowable form. Claim 53 depends on allowable claim 52 and is therefore likewise allowable.

Allowable claim 54 has been rewritten to independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 44, thereby placing claim 54 in allowable form. Claims 55-58 depend, either directly or indirectly, on allowable claim 54 and are therefore likewise allowable.

The amendments made herein do not raise any new issue that would require further search or consideration. Instead, the claim amendments do, on their face, place the application in condition for allowance as only allowed and allowable claims remain pending. All of the rejected claims have been canceled.

In the event the Examiner determines that something further need be done to place the application in allowable form, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney whereupon any outstanding matter will be promptly attended to.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Donna Riccardulli

Name



Signature

NOVEMBER 28, 2006

Date